

City of Corunna
Regular Council Meeting
Monday, November 17, 2003

Present: Corey, Johnson, Lantis, Mehigh, Runyan, Sanderson, Wagner.

Absent: None.

Guests: Joe Sawyer, City Manager; Judy Horton; Bill Striggow; Helen Granger, The Independent; Shirley Sanderson; Sgt. Kevin Clark, Police Department; Keith and Diane Johnson; Bob and Sharon Morehouse; Dr. Richard Ball; and other concerned citizens.

The meeting was called to order in the City Council Chambers by Mayor Corey at 7:00 p.m.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS REGULAR MEETING: Mayor Corey advised he had a correction that he wanted noted on page 10 of the minutes. In the next to last paragraph, there was a concern about the police department and the minutes state "Mr. Sawyer advised this was a management issue. Mayor Corey stated he did not think so". Mayor Corey stated there was more to that sentence. He further stated the words "and it was not proper for council discussion" should be added to the minutes. Johnson moved, Sanderson seconded to approve the regular meeting minutes dated November 3, 2003 with the addition of "and it was not proper for council discussion" to the minutes.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Wagner, Johnson, Sanderson, Runyan, Lantis, Mehigh.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

AGENDA APPROVAL: Wagner moved, Johnson seconded to approve the agenda as presented with the addition of Item No. 4) Board Discussions.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Lantis, Runyan, Mehigh, Wagner, Johnson, Sanderson.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

APPROVAL OF VENDOR DISBURSEMENTS: Johnson moved, Sanderson seconded to approve the vendor disbursements as presented.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Runyan, Wagner, Lantis, Sanderson, Mehigh, Johnson.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

CALL TO AUDIENCE: Keith Johnson applauded the city for leaving the dump open for leaves and the city residents for treating the dump right. He further stated on the Friday morning after the Thursday wind, there were leaves on the sidewalk in front of the Surbeck Building that were three foot high and people had to go out in the street to go around them. He asked who was responsible for cleaning the leaves off the sidewalks because the city spent a lot of money to make the street beautiful and he thought the leaves should be removed from the sidewalk just like the snow is removed. He also stated people got a lot of laughs about the leaves but the merchants should be reminded

about taking care of their leaves. Mayor Corey asked if the city ordinance addresses leaves. Mr. Sawyer advised the city ordinance is a general ordinance that requires property owners to keep their sidewalks clear of snow, ice, dirt and debris so it is the property owner's responsibility. He further advised the city does not get adequate support from the downtown merchants on keeping the leaves off the sidewalk and he will take this issue to the Downtown Development Authority and see if they will help keep the streetscape clean. Mayor Corey advised the vacant building to the south of Nicki's Party Store has dried leaves on the sidewalk that should be addressed with the property owner. Mr. Sawyer stated it might not hurt to send out a general letter to the downtown merchants to let them know that the city expects them to keep the sidewalks clear.

Dr. Richard Ball introduced himself and advised he was a republican candidate for the 85th District State Representative seat that is currently held by Larry Julian. He explained he was born and raised in Owosso and lived on Park Lane for a few years. He has been a practicing optometrist in Owosso for over 45 years and has taught at Michigan State University for over 40 years. He further explained he has served on the Owosso School Board for a total of 15 years and resides on a 100-acre land parcel in Bennington Township. He is an Army veteran and has a pro-life position on abortion. He also explained he is not looking for a new job, new career or career ladder, but he is deeply committed to paying back this area for the good things that the area has done for him. He feels everyone owes a debt to their community and should do whatever it takes to make the community a better place and his experience, background, and ability would serve the citizens of this district. Mr. Ball encouraged anyone who had questions, suggestions or complaints to give him a call.

Bill Striggow stated there are a lot of rumors on the street about the driveway to the proposed school bus garage area and asked what the city was going to do with the driveway. Mayor Corey advised the street would be developed by the road commission then turned over to the city upon negotiations between the city manager and the road commission, but the details have not been worked out yet. Mr. Striggow asked what specifications would be used for the road. Mr. Sawyer advised federal major street specifications. Mr. Striggow asked what the city specifications were for major streets. Mr. Sawyer advised the road commission requested that council not require curb and gutter on this street if the street was developed according to the federal major street specifications, which council has agreed to. Mr. Striggow asked if anyone knew what specifications were used for Sleesman Drive. Mayor Corey advised no, and asked Mr. Striggow if he knew what was done. Mr. Striggow advised sand and mesh were placed down before the curb and gutter and asphalt were put in. Hastings Street has about eight inches of asphalt on the street for the school busses. He further advised he has heard the city talk about no curb and gutter, but the city has that on King Street and the sides keep breaking out. He also advised the city does not even know what the specifications are going to be. Mayor Corey stated the street specifications would be according to federal major road standards, which he thought were higher than what the city standards would be. Mr. Striggow advised when the cement street was put in, there was something passed by the council that no major street would be put in without curb and gutter and this is in the city books. Mayor Corey stated the streets in Crestview Heights do not have curb and gutter and this is another example where the council went around the ordinance. Mr. Striggow asked Mayor Corey if he felt this was wrong. Mayor Corey stated the council gets to make these decisions and it was not his personal decision. Mr. Striggow stated since the new street will be a bus and truck route, the city had better make sure the road

commission will build the street strong enough to hold up. Mayor Corey advised council would take what Mr. Striggow has stated into consideration. Mr. Johnson stated Hastings Street was built with nine inches of asphalt because of the weight of the school busses. The city should not take over any road that has less than nine inches of asphalt. Mayor Corey stated there could be industrial growth on the road commission property and he thought Lonny Latunski told the city council that eight inches of asphalt would be put on the street, but he was not sure if he remembered correctly. Mr. Sawyer stated the road commission was in the design-engineering phase, which will be brought back to the city council. He further stated he believed the city standards were the same as the federal major road standards, but he would have to double check this. The difference between the two standards is the curb and gutter issue, which the federal major road standards do not require. Councilperson Lantis stated she did not believe there was any discussion about the city agreeing to do the street maintenance. Mayor Corey stated he believed the motion was to waive curb and gutter and upon negotiations with the city manager as to specifications, the road would be dedicated to the city, which is when the city would take over the road maintenance. Mr. Sawyer advised the state would pay the city for maintaining this street. Mayor Corey stated the street would have heavy traffic on it. Mr. Striggow stated the city should require curb and gutter and make the road commission build up the street. Councilperson Lantis asked if there was a way the issue could be readdressed. Mayor Corey stated if the council wants to readdress what has already been approved, then something should be done immediately because the road commission is looking at design-engineering based on what was already approved. Councilperson Lantis stated she was concerned about the maintenance part of the issue. Mr. Sawyer stated there are two types of maintenance; routine maintenance such as chip seal, snow removal, etc., which the city is well funded for and reconstruction maintenance. The street should last 20 to 30 years if the street is built properly.

MANAGER'S REPORT: Mr. Sawyer stated the sewer televising and cleaning is scheduled to begin on November 24. He reviewed the December calendar with council. He advised city hall would be closed on November 27 and 28 for Thanksgiving, December 25 and 26 instead of December 24 and 25 for Christmas and January 1 and 2 for New Years instead of December 31 and January 1. He further advised city hall would be open on December 24 and 31.

CONSIDER SELECTION OF MAYOR PRO TEM: Sanderson moved, Mehig seconded to re-appoint Larry Runyan as Mayor Pro Tem.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Sanderson, Mehig, Johnson, Lantis, Wagner, Runyan.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

CONSIDER RESIGNATION OF DOUG PIGGOTT FROM THE PLANNING COMMISSION:

Johnson moved, Wagner seconded to accept the resignation of Doug Piggott from the Planning Commission effective immediately with regret. Councilperson Sanderson advised Mr. Piggott has stated in his letter that he would be available to assist Merilee Lawson and asked if he would do this free gratis or would he bill the city. Mayor Corey advised Mr. Piggott would not bill the city. Mr. Sawyer advised not unless the city contracts with him for a specific project.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Mehigh, Lantis, Runyan, Johnson, Sanderson, Wagner.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

CONSIDER REQUESTING A REDUCTION TO THE SPEED LIMIT ON S. SHIAWASSEE

FROM LYONS RD. TO CITY LIMITS: Councilperson Sanderson stated when someone backs out of his driveway, someone either blows the car horn at you or flips you off. He further stated he has been nearly run over four times while walking on the side of the road. He also stated he and Mr. Sawyer have discussed this with Joe DeCaire and Caledonia Township is thinking about reducing the speed to 45 mph on State Road from Lyons Road to Hibbard Road. The two governments will get together and get the state police involved to do a traffic count to see what can be done. Councilperson Sanderson advised he wishes the people on State Road between Lyons Road and Hibbard Road would sign a petition to lower the speed limit because people stop and complain to him about the situation if he is out in his yard. Mayor Corey stated there are a lot of blind driveways in that area and everyone would benefit from the speed limit reduction. Runyan moved, Johnson seconded to request that Caledonia Charter Township Board request that the Shiawassee County Road Commission conduct a speed study on South State Road from Lyons Road north to Corunna City limits in consideration of a reduction in the speed limit from the existing 55 mph to 35 mph.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Johnson, Sanderson, Wagner, Mehigh, Runyan, Lantis.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

BOARD DISCUSSIONS: Mr. Sawyer advised there has been discussion about Councilperson Johnson leaving the Library Board to open a seat for Councilperson Lantis and Councilperson Sanderson leaving the Forrest Management Commission to open a seat for Councilperson Lantis. Mr. Sawyer further advised when councilpersons are appointed to a board or commission, the councilperson serves until his office expires unless the councilperson resigns. If a councilperson wants to change the commission he is on, then the councilperson currently serving on a commission needs to resign in order to create a vacant seat. He also advised the Library Board and Forrest Management Commission are mayoral appointments subject to council confirmation. If Councilpersons Johnson and Sanderson were to resign from their board and commission seat, then the mayor could make a recommendation. Mr. Sawyer explained Councilperson Lantis has indicated she would like to be appointed to the Library Board and Forrest Management Commission. Mr. Sawyer stated Councilpersons Johnson and Sanderson only needed to tell council they wanted to resign from their board or commission and then follow-up with a resignation letter. Councilperson Johnson advised she wanted to resign from the Library Board. Wagner moved, Mehigh seconded to accept the resignation of Dawn Johnson from the Library Board effective immediately with regret.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Wagner, Johnson, Sanderson, Runyan, Lantis, Mehigh.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

Mayor Corey asked Councilperson Sanderson if it was his intent to resign from the Forrest Management Commission. Councilperson Sanderson advised yes, he would like to resign. Johnson moved, Runyan seconded to accept the resignation of Gene Sanderson from the Forrest Management Commission effective immediately with regret.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Lantis, Runyan, Mehigh, Wagner, Johnson, Sanderson.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

Mayor Corey recommended appointing Ms. Lantis to the Library Board and Forrest Management Commission. Johnson moved, Sanderson seconded to appoint Amy Lantis to serve on the Library Board effective immediately.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Runyan, Wagner, Lantis, Sanderson, Mehigh, Johnson.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

Sanderson moved, Runyan seconded to appoint Amy Lantis to the Forrest Management Commission to serve at the pleasure of the council effective immediately.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Sanderson, Mehigh, Johnson, Lantis, Wagner, Runyan.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

Mayor Corey asked Councilpersons Johnson and Sanderson to write a letter of resignation and to give the letter to Mr. Sawyer. Mr. Sawyer advised the appointment sheet he passed out lists the current members on the city board and commissions with the exception of the changes council made tonight. He reviewed the board and commission vacancies with the council

Mr. Sawyer stated the labor committee needed to identify some dates between the end of November and December that he could try to coordinate some additional meetings with the Police Officer Labor Council. Mayor Corey asked what time of day the meetings would be held. Mr. Sawyer advised the meetings are generally held in the morning, which has worked out well for the mayor and Councilperson Mehigh since they are both retired and asked Councilperson Johnson if she could make the meetings. Councilperson Johnson advised she could take off work. Mr. Sawyer stated he would try to schedule the meetings in the morning. Councilperson Johnson asked if there was any information she could be given beforehand. Mr. Sawyer advised yes, he would give her a copy of the written proposal from the employer side and the written response from the union. He further advised the city was waiting for an actuary to be done over a retirement issue and this is why there has not been a meeting in three months. Mr. Sawyer also advised he would send a list of available dates to Mr. Caster.

ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION: Mayor Corey asked Councilperson Sanderson if he had an update on the railroad track issue. Councilperson Sanderson advised after making approximately 25 phone calls, the railroad tracks were fixed today. The west side planks were torn out and filled with black top. He further advised he spoke to the person fixing the railroad tracks and the person was surprised the planks were that bad. Councilperson Sanderson also advised he was told the railroad was going back to blacktopping the

railroad tracks because the rubberized tracks have not worked out like they were suppose to. He stated he did not know how long the blacktop would last, but when the blacktop starts to push out, he would start making phone calls again. Mayor Corey stated he was surprised anybody got the railroad tracks fixed because the city has been trying to get the tracks fixed for years.

Councilperson Johnson thanked Councilperson Sanderson for his work in getting the railroad tracks fixed. She congratulated all of the new councilpersons that were elected and re-elected.

Councilperson Runyan thanked everyone for their support and confidence in re-appointing him as mayor pro-tem.

Councilperson Lantis thanked Councilperson Johnson for being with her at the library board meeting on Monday. Councilperson Lantis stated the city needs to look at the new road issue again because she did not realize the city would be maintaining the road.

Councilperson Mehigh thanked Mayor Corey and Mayor Jack Davis for putting together the revenue sharing rally today. The more pressure the city can put on Lansing will help the city.

Mayor Corey stated he was happy with the turnout at the rally today. He did not know what the city would do if it loses the revenue sharing. He further stated Applebees is having a difficult time in getting their curb cuts from the Michigan Department of Transportation. There are existing curb cuts but the curb cuts are not grand fathered unless Applebees put gasoline pumps in front of their restaurant. He also stated Applebees was asking for right in/right out curb cuts and if Applebees do not get the curb cuts, then Applebees might not put the restaurant at that location. He did not see a problem with the curb cuts if the curb cuts are moved all the way to the eastern border of their property. Mayor Corey advised Applebees has asked for a letter of recommendation from the city. He further advised Applebees is putting in a pickup window, which means a person has to order the food in advance. The pickup window will be located on the east side of the building.

ADJOURN: Wagner moved, Johnson seconded to adjourn.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Mehigh, Lantis, Runyan, Johnson, Sanderson, Wagner.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED Time was 7:58 p.m.

STEVE COREY, MAYOR

YVONNE F. LONG, CITY CLERK